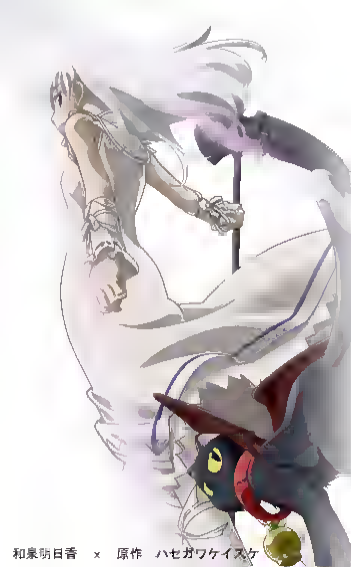


和泉明日香　×　原作　ハセガワケイスケ

CREDITS

Raw Provider: vvhime
Translator: laurena
Editor: vvhime
Proofreader: shanz
QCer: shanz

This work is from fans to fans. If you like Izumi Asuka and Hasegawa Keisuke's work, support them by buying the manga.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU ORG

Hana to Yume COMICS

Shinigami no Ballad.

Izumi Asuka Original Work Hasegawa Keisuke 1

ISBN4-592-18386-X
C9979 ¥390E
9784592183860
定価本体390円+税
1929979003906
雑誌43783−12

Shinigami no Ballad. 〔1〕

Izumi Asuka

HAKUSENSHA

Hana to Yume Comics

▶ Summary ◀

Hayama Makoto is tormented by sightings of Shinigami. Asano Mitsuki dwells on his dead sister's shadow, and Koumoto Yaeko longs for the love of her life — these are the heart-rending yet tender tales of the people whose thoughts dwell on life and death, and of the white Shinigami Momo

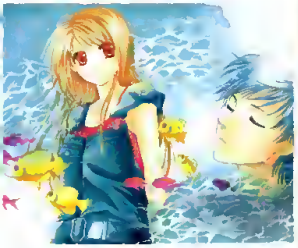
■ Serialized in LaLa ■

HAKUSENSHA

● Izumi Asuka's Books
— Hana to Yume Comics —

Tokage Ouji (The Lizard Prince)
-2 Volumes Complete-

Shinigami no Ballad (A God of Death's Ballad)
-Volume 1-



Story Summary

Hayama Makoto is tormented by sightings of Shinigami. Asano Mitsuki dwells on his dead sister's shadow and Koumoto Yaeko longs for the love of her life — each must find a place to call their own. These are the heart-rending yet tender tales of the people whose thoughts dwell on life and death, and of the white Shinigami Momo. The first volume is now complete with a newly written prolog

HANA TO YUME COMICS

Shinigami no Ballad.

Volume 1

Izumi Asuka

Contents

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Afterword 175

Original Author's Afterword 178

This is a work of fiction. Any similarities to actual persons, groups and incidents are purely coincidental

When someone grieves over their loss...
Wish
...a white Shinigami will appear by their side
Rattle
SAY
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

*Shinigami, 死神 is the Japanese word for "Grim Reaper" and literally means "god of death".

**Mo 百 is the pure Japanese word for 100

*Tsukaema, 仕え魔 means "familiar" or "attendant spirit"

Rattle
HOLD ON A SECOND. THEN I'LL BE DEAD SOON
FOR REAL?
EVEN IF YOU TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE,
YOU WON'T SEE YOUHEI-KUN
YOU'LL ONLY BECOME...
A SHINIGAMI LIKE US.

I DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING
...DID YOU KILL YOURSELF?
...SO IF I KILL MYSELF, I'LL BECOME A SHINIGAMI?
YES
Rattle
THEN
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
HOW DO I SEE HIM AGAIN?
HOW...?!

...
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE
BUT,
THAT DAY
WE'D BEEN FIGHTING FOR 12 YEARS
FOR ARGUING WITH HIM
I SAID SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE—
WHAT!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
SHUT UP AND GO HOME
HOSPITAL

...WHY DID I...
SAY THAT TO HIM...?
SNAP
Clench
ARGH!! YOU-HE!
DROP DEAD...!!
I DIDN'T EVEN MEAN IT
"RYOU."
I ONLY WISHED FOR HIM...
...TO GET BETTER SOON.

I SAID SOME-THING HORRIBLE...
AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO APOLOGIZE
"HE HAD A SUDDEN FIT LAST NIGHT..."
AND THEN HE JUST DIED
AND NOW I CAN'T SEE HIM AGAIN!!
YOU MAY NOT SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN
BUT HE DID LEAVE YOU A MESSAGE
"HEY."

A MESSAGE?
"WE GET INTO FIGHTS ALL THE TIME—
SO DON'T EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER THEM ALL."
CAN YOU HELP ME PASS
HEY
"AND DON'T CRY BECAUSE IT'S A PAIN IN THE NECK."
EH...
"YOU'RE JUST A GIRL."
BESIDES—

"IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT"
"NOBODY'S GOING TO MARRY YOU"
Youhei...
"BUT, IF THAT'S THE CASE—"
RYOUKO
Youhei.
"I'D MAKE YOU MY BRIDE"

Sorry...
...and thank you.
UMM...
AFTER THIS I MIGHT CRY SOME MORE YOU KNOW
EVEN AFTER YOUHEI'S TOLD ME NOT TO, SO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
UH-HUH
THE NAME'S MOMO?

...PLEASE KEEP THIS BETWEEN US
SURE

This is the heart-rending yet tender tale of the white Shinigami.

END OF Shinigami no Ballad -Prolog-

Volume 1 Chapter 1 Credits:

Raw Provider: vvhime
Translator: kurenai
Proofer: shanz
Editor: rindtron
Magz Color Editor: kokoro-chun
QCer: vvhime &
shanz &
kokoro-chun &
RaikOSuave

☆ Maberashi ☆

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60 pages with the splash in color

SHINIGAMI NO BALLAD.

~The Scar's Blossom~

A pain that lingers. A wound that remains.
It opens up, spreads, carries a scent and frays.

Izumi Asuka's HC
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goes on sale
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Application cards can be found on page 365.
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Izumi Asuka

Original Work: Hasegawa Keisuke and Nanakusa

A heart-rending yet tender tale of a white Shinigami!

The original novel series Shinigami no Ballad.
#1 #7 now on sale!!
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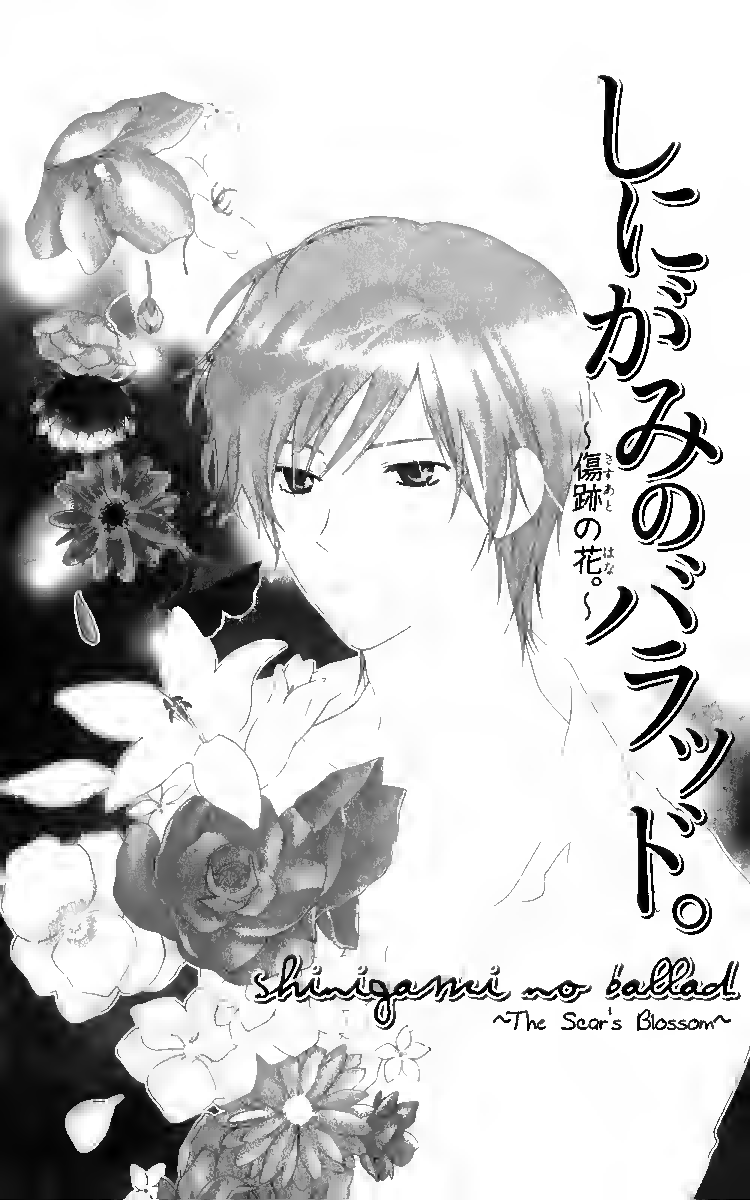
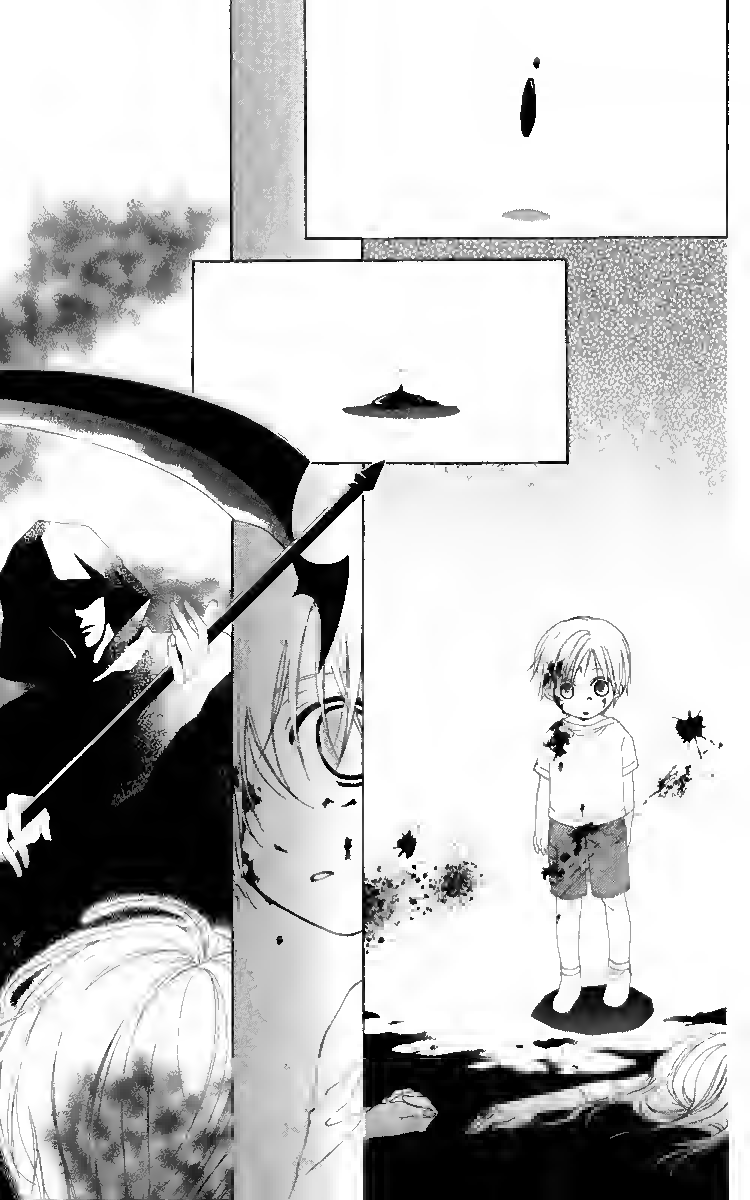
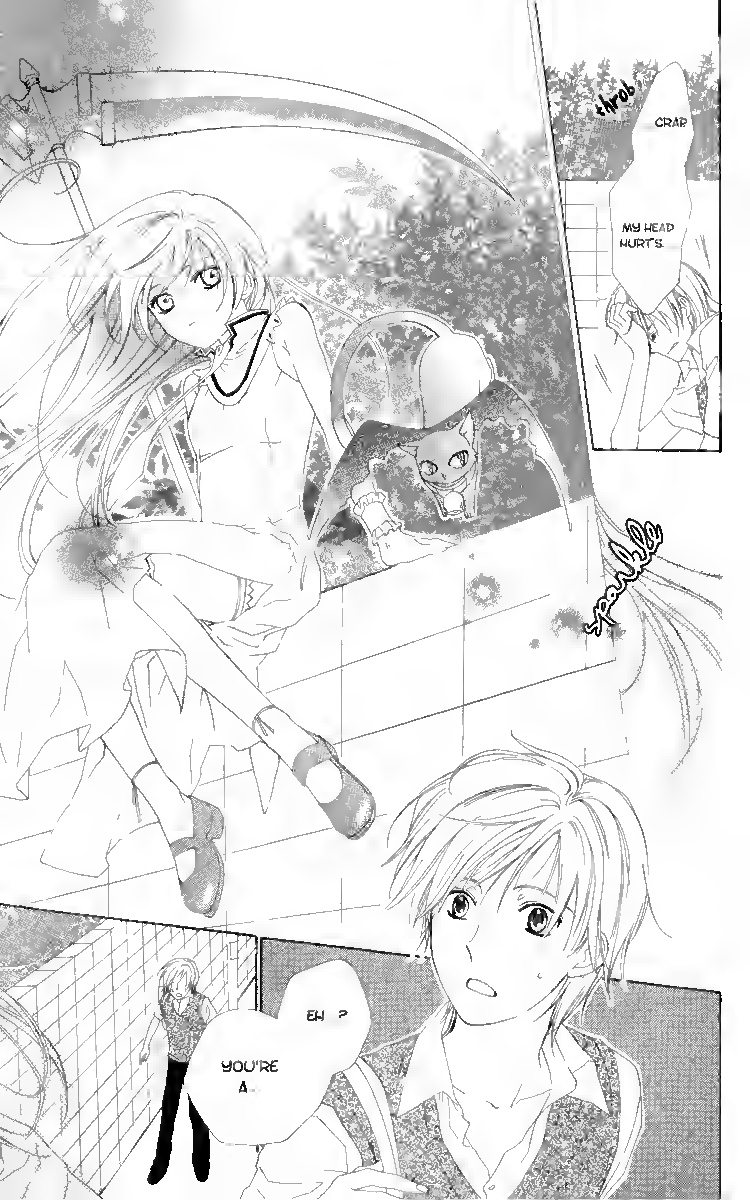

しにがみのバラッド。
～傷跡の花。～
shinigami no ballad
~The Scar's Blossom~



huff
huff
huff
huff
huff

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KIKYOKU.ORG

THROB
OUCH...
Yet again.
throb
Ever since that day, I've been seeing things only I can see
throb
Black figures carrying glistening grey scythes
"Shinigami"


throb
CRAP
MY HEAD HURT'S.
throb
EH ?
YOU'RE A

A WHITE SHINIGAMI
...But how?
And no one else sees her.
A scythe.
Whoa!
This guy can see us!
But we made ourselves invisible!
THAT'S DANIEL.
MY PARTNER.
IT TALKED.
How in the world-

AND I'M...
SHINIGAMI A #100100
YOU CAN CALL ME THAT.
I spoke to him!!
Kya!
IT'S TROUBLESOME TO SAY A #100100 100 AND 100 EQUALS "MOMO"
AH
I see
Wasn't it A something?
?
MOMO?
AH!
MOMO, WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO HIM?!
Making a contract with a human!
Why Momo?
Give me a break!

...I'VE BEEN SEEING THEM
SINCE MY PARENT'S DIED
...YOU SURE ARE DIFFERENT...
I don't even get a headache
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A DROPOUT
Anyway
YOU'RE THE WEIRDO HERE.
HOW CAN YOU ACTUALLY SEE SHINIGAMI!

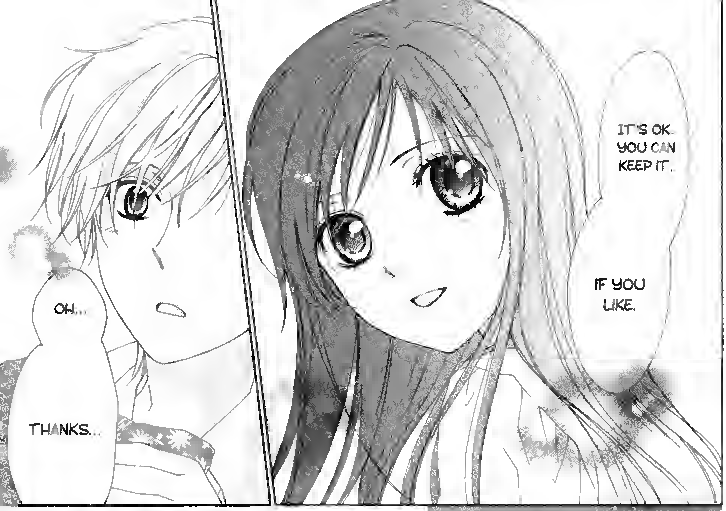
ARE YOU SAYING...
OH... OK
YOU'RE NOT ON THE LIST YET
NOT REALLY
SO? YOU'VE COME TO GET ME?

...YOU WISH TO DIE?
...NAH.
NOTHING LIKE THAT. IN FACT, I DON'T WANT TO.
SHOULD BE FINE THEN
JUST DON'T PILE UP MY WORKLOAD
SHE'S ONE STRANGE SHINIGAMI...

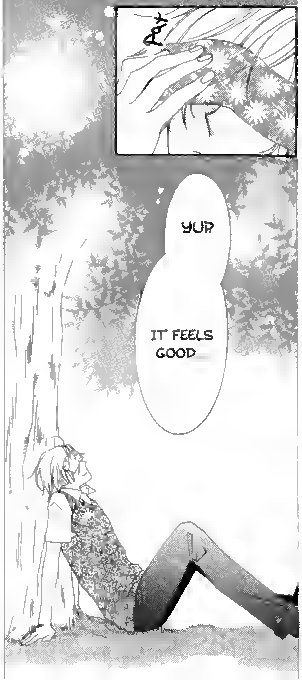
EH HAYAMA YOU'RE SITTING OUT GYM?
All the best!
YEAH THE HEAT GOT TO ME
You ok Hime?
ROASTING
Actually—
UM
THROB
UGH
HUH?

FLOP
WHY DON'T YOU USE THIS?
AH, YOU'RE IN MY CLASS...
HIURA... RIGHT?
YEAH
HIURA TOIRO.
THIS FEELS SO GOOD
So nice
THANKS.
MAKOTO-KUN, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M MUCH BETTER NOW THANKS TO YOU
HIURA YOU'RE SITTING OUT TOO? ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
Haha
ERM...
I-I'M FEELING ILL TOO.
Really?
?

WHY DON'T YOU SIT HERE?
It's COOL!~
THANKS.
I SMELL CURRY.
YEAH IT MUST BE THE COOKING CLASS.
MAN~ IT'S MAKING ME HUNGRY...
TODAY'S LUNCH...
CURRY HMM
CURRY!
AHAHAHA
CAN'T HELP IT, I GUESS.
Pfft!
GYM'S OVER.
dimy domy
dimy domy
BYE!
AH HIURA YOUR HANKY


IT'S OK. YOU CAN KEEP IT.
IF YOU LIKE.
OH...
THANKS...

CLINK
RIGHT!
chatter
cafeteria
chatter
Set A ¥500
DING DONG
Hayama Makoto of Class 1-6.
please come to the staffroom
BON APPETI—
YOU'RE KIDDING.
...at once
My curry
I repeat

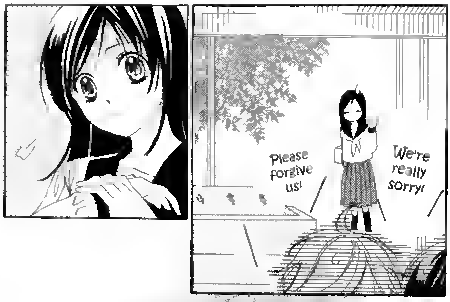

YUP.
IT FEELS GOOD...

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KANYOKU.ORG

PAT
!
WHOA!
OH! I'M SORRY!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD A FEVER
DID I SCARE YOU?
HIURA...
ARE YOU OK? DO YOU STILL FEEL UNWELL?
Ah No
OH, YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR LUNCH?
You were called out.
YEAH
WELL THEN
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THIS?
Ah IS IT YOURS?
IT'S JUST LEFTOVERS FROM MY LUNCH
IF YOU DON'T MIND
Oh, may I?
All cleared

SEE YOU TOMORROW
AH, YOU TOO HIURA!
THANKS!
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL
DELICIOUS! THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
BYE
TAKE CARE
RIGHT! NOW FOR MY PART-TIME JOB!
stretch
S-SORRY!
TIKE!?
OH, UM. IT'S OK IT'LL DRY SOON
SPLATTER

1



How do you do? This is Izumi Asuka.

I'm happy to present to you my manga "Shinigami no Ballad"! Thank you for getting this book!

Since there are 6 columns this time (...) I'll be dressing Momo-san up in all sorts of outfits.

Well then, let's enjoy the slow ride, shall we?

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KANYOKU GRP

BOW!
G-GET AWAY FROM ME!
BOW! WOW!
sigh
GOT TO HURRY HOME FOR DINNER
Good work.
Thank you.

Thwack
CLING
Hiura?!
UGH...
MAKOTO-KUN!
COME ON RUN!
HIURA OVER HERE!
grab
EH?

2

I used a star- and- moon motif for the hat- and- slippers get- up.

AHAHAHA DON'T WORRY.
BUT WAS IT ALL RIGHT TO THROW YOUR STUFF AT THE DOG. ?
YOU HELPED ME OUT EARLIER TODAY AFTER ALL!
INSIDE THE PLASTIC BAG
Curry Bun
TONIGHT'S DINNER

...A-
A hickey?!
AH!
That's a bit shocking
U-JUST A SPLASH OF HOT OIL FROM WORK
GUESS IT BURNT ME

Panic
Eh?!
Ah... O-Of course...
OF COURSE?
Panic
N-Nothing!
UM MAKOTO-KUN WE'RE HERE.
THIS IS MY HOME

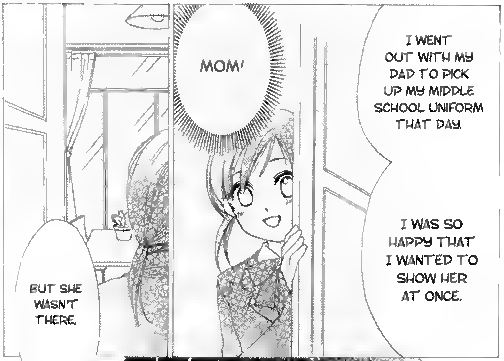
AH S-SURE.
THANKS A LOT
Pfft
CURRY
Curry...

... but it still feels like I'm trapped inside my nightmare

GREAT.
IT'S A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE AND ALSO AN APOLOGY FROM ME.
NO, NO, I OWE YOU ONE
MM
DELICIOUS!
DON'T TELL ME YOU MAKE THIS EVERYDAY?
UH-HUH I MAKE ONE FOR MY DAD TOO
More convenient
DID YOU MAKE YESTERDAY'S TOO?
Ah
THERE'S ONLY MY BROTHER AND ME AT HOME, SO WE DO THE CHORES OURSELVES.
YOU LIVE AWAY FROM YOUR PARENT'S?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HOW'S LIVING ON YOUR OWN LIKE?
A BIT
LONELY I GUESS.
WELL, IT'S NOT SO BAD SINCE MY BROTHER'S AROUND
NOT SO?

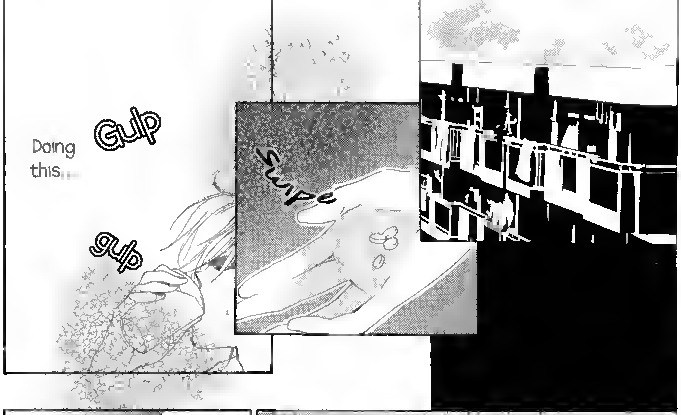
I'VE LIVED IN AN ORPHANAGE.
MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WE ENDED UP IN AN ORPHANAGE AFTER OUR RELATIVES PASSED US AROUND
THERE WERE A LOT OF KIDS LIKE US OVER THERE
SO BEING JUST THE TWO OF US IS KIND OF LONELY.
MIURA?
IT WAS "NANOHANA-EN" JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
But they were all speechless.
YOU KNOW
Not like I need their sympathy.
This is when everyone says,
"Sorry"

3

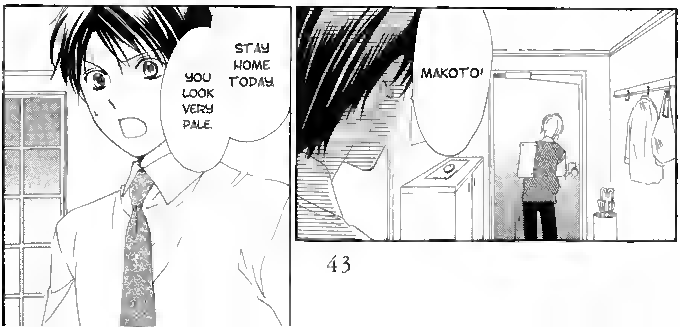

MOM!
I WENT OUT WITH MY DAD TO PICK UP MY MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORM THAT DAY.
I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I WANTED TO SHOW HER AT ONCE.
BUT SHE WASN'T THERE.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

FOR SHARING WITH ME YOUR WEAKNESS.
MAKOTO-KUN
THANK YOU
Maybe...
...I can tell everything I've buried inside my heart to.
she's the one person...
YEAH


Doing this...
Gulp
gulp
swipe

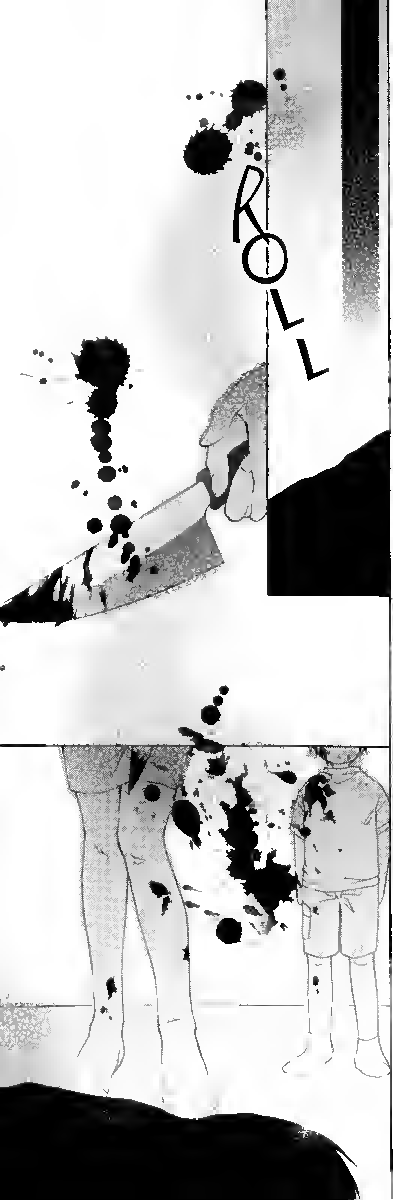
...might just put stop to the nightmares.
huff
huff
...GOT TO GET MORE PILLS...
huff


MAKOTO!
STAY HOME TODAY.
YOU LOOK VERY PALE.

SLAM
I'M ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOTHING REALLY.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT ALL ON YOUR OWN...?
Ding dong ding dong
THROB
THROB

!
Hi—
YOU'RE SPACING OUT AGAIN
HIURA!
Communication's next
You gave me a shock!!
I've been looking for you.
Phew.
YOU KNOW.
EH?
YOU'VE ALWAYS MADE ME CURIOUS.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE LOOKING AT.

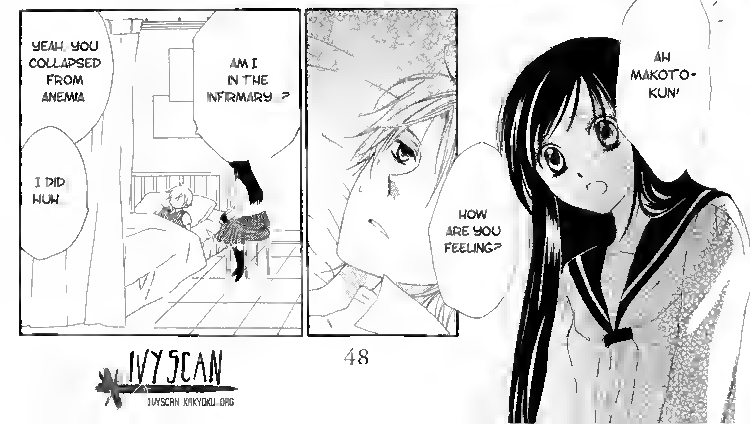
WHERE...
NO. WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING AT
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS LOOKING DEPRESSED
That's right...
HIURA,
I...
pretending she doesn't notice...
She was
always
and still is...


ROLL

I
TOTTER
MAKOTO-KUN?!

Ah, crap

It's dark...



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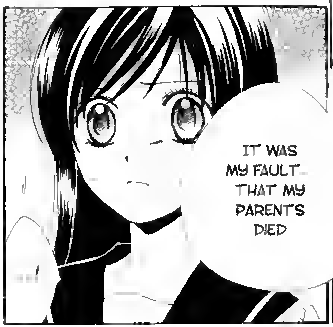
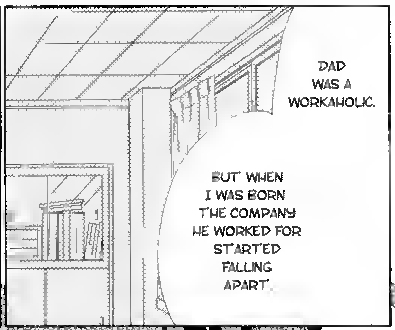
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

I'VE ALWAYS
HAD THE SAME DREAM
MAKOTO-KUN?
MY PARENT'S ARE SOAKED IN RED BLOOD
AND A BLACK FIGURE... A SHINIGAMI LOOMS OVER THEM
HE TURNS AROUND AND SEES ME
AND FINALLY HIS SCYTHE WILL STRIKE ME WITHOUT FAIL...


IT WAS MY FAULT THAT MY PARENTS DIED

THERE'S NO HELPING IT
MA—
MAKOTO-KUN

IT WAS A SMALL COMPANY, SO IT WAS A BIG BURDEN FOR HIM


DAD WAS A WORKAHOLIC.
BUT WHEN I WAS BORN THE COMPANY HE WORKED FOR STARTED FALLING APART.

HE STARTED TO TAKE IT OUT ON ME.

BECAUSE I WAS A SORRY EXCUSE, UNLIKE MY BROTHER

BROTHER WOULD TRY TO STAND UP FOR ME.
BUT THEN DAD WOULD BEAT HIM UP
MOM DID ALL SHE COULD TO PROTECT MY BROTHER AND ME.
SO I TRIED TO ENDURE IT
DAD MIGHT COME ROUND I THOUGHT
BUT THAT DAY
"HELP ME."
"MOM."
I REALLY
SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR HER HELP

DAD WAS ABOUT TO STAB ME.
BUT MOM
...MOM STABBED HIM INSTEAD
"I'M SORRY..."
AND THEN...
splatter

...IT WAS ALL BECAUSE I CALLED OUT TO MOM
THE PEOPLE AT THE ORPHANAGE WERE NICE, AND I HAVE MY BROTHER.
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD ACT HAPPY AND HIDE...
...ALL THE PAIN INSIDE BUT WHY IS IT THAT
WHEN I'M WITH YOU I...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.

DON'T HIDE YOUR DEEPEST WOUND
Slide
WELL~?
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT I'VE ALSO—
STILL FEELING UNWELL?
Do you want an early leave?
Ah, a little
HMM
I STILL HAVE TIME BEFORE MY AFTERNOON CHECK-UP

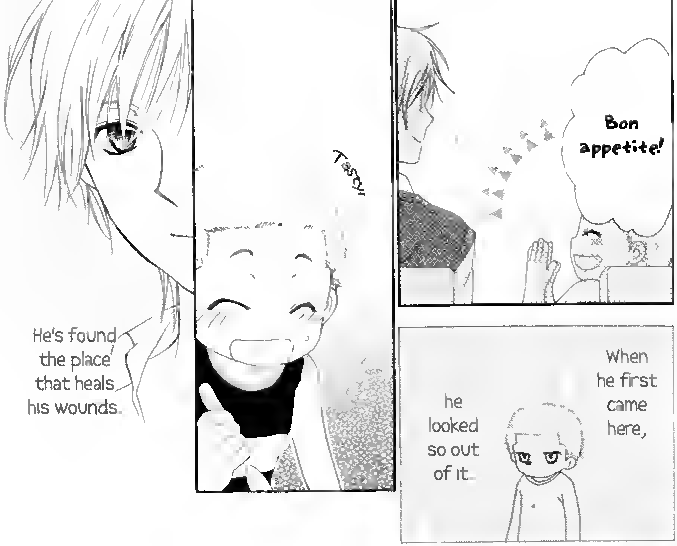
I THINK I'LL DROP BY NANOHA-EN
YOU RE—
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
HUH...?
YOU CAN SEE THINGS NOT MEANT FOR YOUR EYES.
YET WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THROUGH THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE?

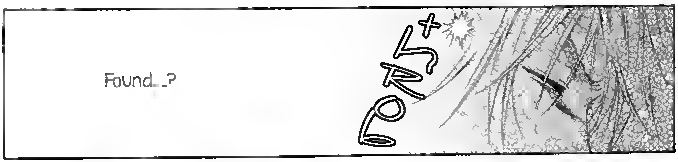
UNLESS YOU START REALIZING WHY YOU CAN SEE US
YOU WILL END UP LOSING
YOUR PRECIOUS ONE AGAIN
Nanoha-en
Hey Makoto!
Play with me!
Tsk
REALLY?
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME, WE'RE HAVING CURRY TODAY.
Ah glad to hear that.
SORRY NOBU BUT MY HEAD HURTS.
What
YOUR PRECIOUS ONE
Later!
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

...was that all about?
Huh? The lights—
DAD ARE YOU HOME?
The smell of liquor
...!
DAD!
YOU PROMISED NOT TO DRINK ANYMORE
GRAB
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?

DAD—
I WAS SO LONELY WHEN YOU WERE GONE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
DON'T GO AWAY.
STAY WITH ME...
DAD IT'S ME, TOIRO!
DON'T GO ANYWHERE AGAIN...
WHOAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!
TANK

Makoto-kun!!
WHAT'S WRONG, MAKOTO?
AH N-NOTHING, MY HEAD'S HURTING...
NOT ANOTHER GHOST?
NO, SOMETHING ELSE.
Ayame, you eating so much?
I'm not growing!


Bon appetite!
Tasty~
He's found the place that heals his wounds.
When he first came here,
he looked so out of it.


Found...?
Crack

It's burning?
That image in my head...
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
What's up?

RISE
HIURA...!?
—A person ?
Why am I seeing these things
HAOU
HAOU
HAOU
WHAT THE HECK...!
MAKOTO ?
WHY YOU CAN SEE THINGS NOT MEANT FOR YOUR EYES.

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS ONE AGAIN...
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE IT? THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE?
MAKOTO P!
SLAM
Screech
TAXI!!
HIT THE GAS LIKE YOU'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE...!!!
MISTER!
Y-
Yes sir!

KRSH
Hiura...
If I was born to live for this day..
I might just be able to forgive myself
—Now that I've found you
. how can I afford to lose you?!
SCREECH
MISTER, CALL AN AMBULANCE AND THE POLICE!
HIURA...!!
SLAM

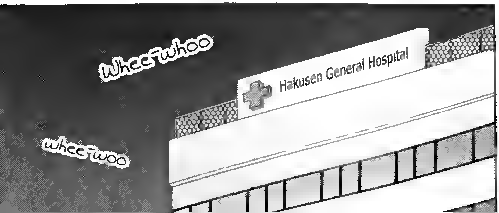
HANG ON NOW!
...!
YOU'RE SWEATING!
Gasoline...!
SHIT, WHAT SHOULD I DO—
SHE'S SOAKING. AND WHAT'S THAT SMELL...?
That would incite the flames...!
GWOAAAAARGH!

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?!
That's a lighter!
AAARGH!
HEY, LET GO OF THAT!
AAARGH!
AAAARGH!
YOU—
AAARGH!
CRAP!
STOP IT!
Whoosh

I'M FEELING ILL TOO.
HIURA!
WAIT!
THAT'S
MY FATHER!
HOT OIL_
I'VE ALSO —

DAD, STOP IT!
All this while, she's been—
AAARGH!
TOGETHER.

What's this...?
I'm still stuck in my nightmare?
This way, I'll always—
MAKOTO-KUN
No.
I've found her.



A pun on the name of LaLa's publishing company Hakusensha

I'M SORRY MAKOTO-KUN FOR DRAGGING YOU INTO THIS.
PANT
I THOUGHT THAT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
LET'S JUST SAY I'M WATCHING OVER
MY PRECIOUS ONE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME?
OH—

OH— HEY!
WHY— I'M SO SORRY...!!
N-NO, LISTEN...
WHEN MY MOM LEFT US,
MY DAD TURNED TO ALCOHOL
SO, I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT
IF I COULD BEAR WITH IT DAD WOULD BE HIMSELF AGAIN...
HE BEATS ME UP WHEN HE'S DRUNK...
BUT WHEN HE ISN'T HE'S A LOVING FATHER
BUT I WAS WRONG
THANK YOU MAKOTO-KUN
FOR KNOCKING SOME SENSE INTO MY DAD

THANK YOU...
Don't act all innocent!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
You were helping them!
Not again, Momo.

BUT THEIR TROUBLES HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN
AFTER ALL, STAYING ALIVE IS TOUGHER THAN DYING.
BUT—
THEY'LL CONTINUE LIVING.
Roasting!!
HIURA HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO YOUR GRANDMA'S PLACE?
YEAH PRETTY MUCH WANT TO COME OVER AND HANG OUT?
I'LL FIX YOU UP WITH SOMETHING GOOD
OH YOU WILL?

CURRY RICE!

Volume 1 Chapter 2
Credits:

Raw Provider: vvhime
Translator: kurenai
Proofer: shanz
Editor: doodette
Magz Color Editor: vvhime
QCer: vvhime &
shanz &
kokoro-chan

☆ Makeroshi ☆

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

—YOU
I, Asano Mitsuki,
...ARE GOING TO DIE.
met a Shinigami that night

I, Asano Mitsuki,
—you
ARE GOING TO DIE.
met a Shinigami that night

Center Color Spread

SOP

A boy who mulls over death receives a visit from a gentle white Shinigami.
Then at the pool one summer's night, the boy unexpectedly meets a girl...

A collaboration of dreams between
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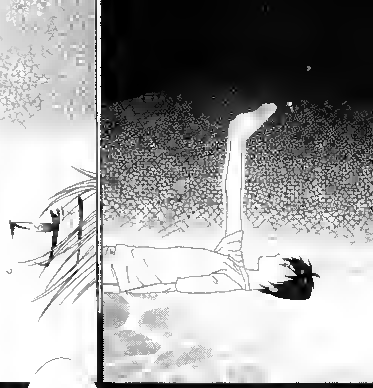
shinigami no ballad
~The Waterless Pool~

SPLISH...

The person who first brought me to this swimming pool

...was my sister, Subaru...



IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOIU.ORG

A summer without Subaru to say those things

Just like this one.

EEEK—!
—ERK!
Tch
FU-
FUJISHIMA?

A-A-
ASANO?! WH-WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
Hey!
NO NEED TO YELL! YOU'LL SEND THE SECURITY GUARDS AFTER US!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ASANO?!
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF THE POOL
Yep ASAR
I WAS ABOUT TO, BUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU KNOW, ASANO.
WHAT?
JUST NOW I RELEASED IT RIGHT HERE
RELEASED WHAT?

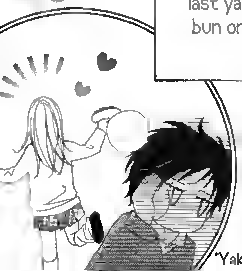
I SAID—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU SEE... I RELEASED A PIRA-, UMM...
BIRA? PIRA? WHAT?
I said Pira
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF OUT WITH IT ALREADY!
I SAID, I LET A PIRANHA LOOSE HERE!
IDIOT!
...SERIOUSLY
SERIOUSLY...?

That girl, Fujishima Yutaka, and me, Asano Mitsuki, are bounded together by a strange force.

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME SOOONEEEEERR !!!

It all started when we ended up in neighboring beds the first day we ditched class

There was even a time when she carelessly hit me by swinging the last yakisoba bun on sale.

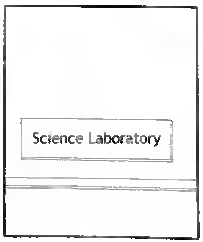


*Yakisoba is a type of Japanese fried noodles.

It took some random teacher to cap it all
by putting us in charge of the "Science Section" together.
!
DASH
DASH

4

FISH? WHAT THE HECK?! THAT'S WHY THE POOL IS OUT OF ORDER?
THEY FOUND SOME DEAD FISH FLOATING AROUND.
WHY IS THE POOL OFF-LIMIT'S ANYWAY?
So it died?
Saved by the chlorine.



I wonder what made her hate the pool so much...

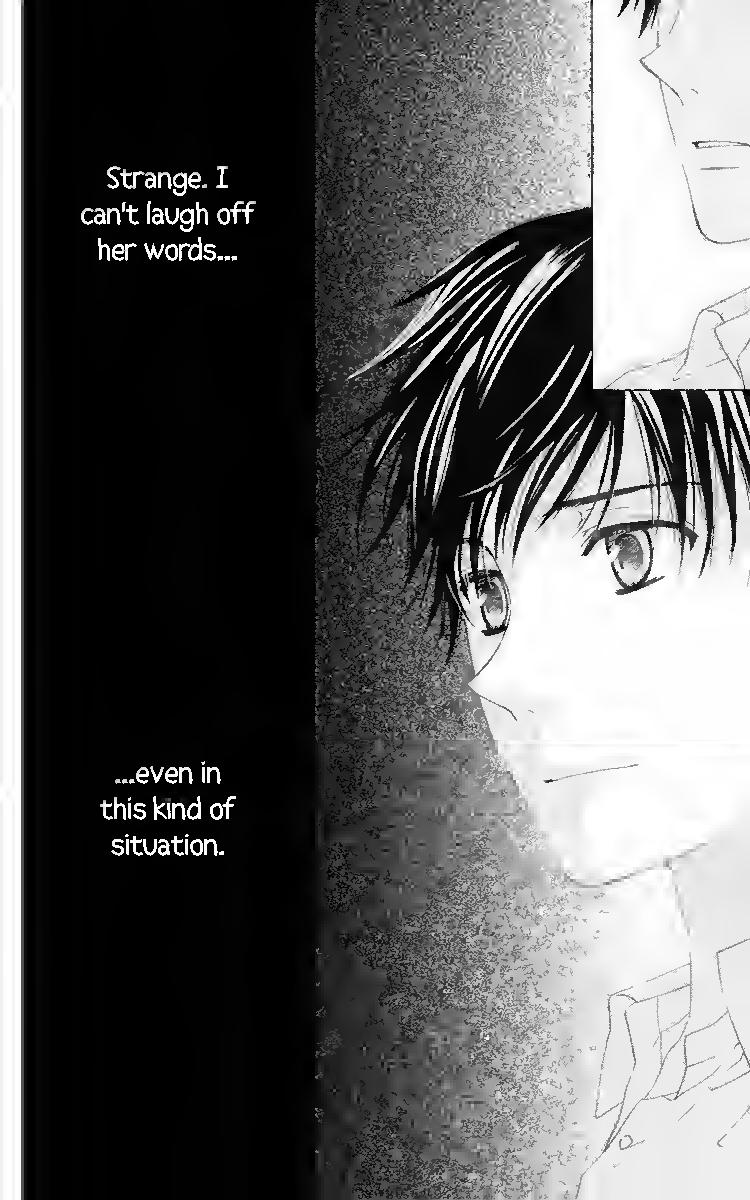
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

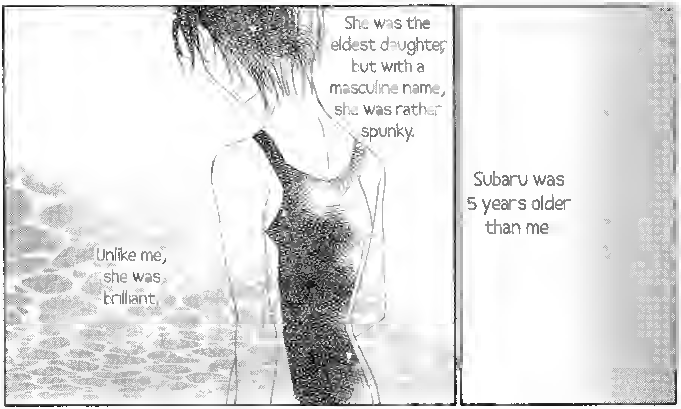
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO AHEAD AND TELL ON ME?!
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME IN THE LEAST
—I'M NOT TELLING.
Cocky, aren't you.
You do know what would happen if I did, don't you?
YOU'RE NOT?
DIDN'T I JUST SAY THAT?
OH, OK
WELL, IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT THEN
SO, HOW DID YOU GET HOLD OF A PIRANHA ANYWAY?
THAT?

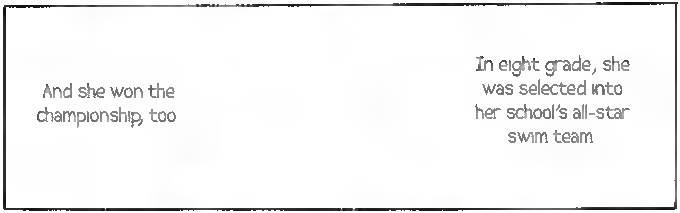
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?
OOPS, MY BAD. I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.
WHAT DIDN'T YOU SEE COMING?
OH...?
IT'S MY DAD'S IDEA OF A HOBBY. WE'VE A WHOLE TANK OF THEM AT HOME
Wish he'd stop it already
OH YOU SEEM LIKE THE HIP TYPE TO ME
I WAS EXPECTING YOU TO CALL YOUR FATHER "STINKING OLD MAN" OR "SHITTY OLD MAN"
YOU CALLING HIM "DAD" DOESN'T REALLY CLICK SOMEWHAT
WHA—?!
ARE YOU DUMB?!
HEY, I'M SORRY IF I OFFENDED YOU. I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
IT JUST DOESN'T CLICK...
SHUT UP!

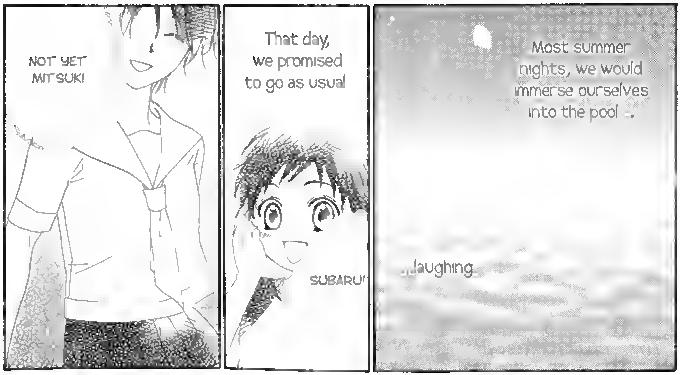
"DAD" DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD
I CALLED MY FATHER "DADDY" ALL THE WAY UP TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHAT?!
REALLY?
DID YOU REALLY CALL HIM DADDY, ASANO?
SHUT UP! I'VE TOLD YOU, OK!
IT WAS HIS IDEA OF AMUSEMENT HAVING ME CALL HIM THAT
My sis did the same
Pfft!
I'M SO SORRY... MA~N, THAT'S HILARIOUS.
DAMN IT!! ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!
S-SORRY ASANO, BUT... PFFT!
GO AHEAD AND LAUGH GEEZ

UM, UH... YOU DON'T MIND ME LAUGHING?
NOT REALLY.
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU LOOSEN UP AND LAUGH
HEY! ONCE AGAIN, NO OFFENSE MEANT—
...!!
DROP DEAD!!


Strange. I can't laugh off her words...
...even in this kind of situation.


She was the eldest daughter, but with a masculine name, she was rather spunky.
Subaru was 5 years older than me
Unlike me, she was brilliant.


In eight grade, she was selected into her school's all-star swim team
And she won the championship, too


NOT YET MITSUKI
That day, we promised to go as usual
SUBARU!
Most summer nights, we would immerse ourselves into the pool -
...laughing...

Why did she have to die in my place...?

WHY?
JUST WHY...?

SO,
YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE ME ?
NOT YET BUT SOON ENOUGH
SOMEDAY
CAN TAKE ANOTHER'S PLACE
NOBODY
NOBODY COULD ALTER HER FATE EXCEPT SHE HERSELF

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU
BEST WISHES, TILL THE DAY YOU DIE.
Best wishes?
What a weirdo
Someday ...
That's...

...must mean that I shouldn't...
let anyone else die in my place.
Science Laboratory
Dazed
YOU MAKE ME FEEL JEALOUS.
YOU ACT LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE CARE IN THE WORLD
HMM?

5

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN XIAYOKU ORG

But still, I've always...
...wished it to be me, and not Subaru.
Of course everyone knows that.
Right.
YEAH, YOU HAVE A POINT THERE
HEY, IT'S ALMOST SUMMER ISN'T IT?
WHERE TO?
WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE?

N-
NOTHING
I JUST WANTED TO GO SOME-WHERE WITH YOU!
Ohmm
THE SEASIDE, OR THE POOL?
AS IF YOU COULD GO INTO THE SEA OR THE POOL.
ERR... THEN IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT KIND OF PLACE. ANYWHERE'S FINE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH SUMMER?

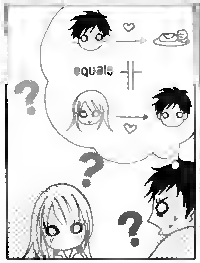
OF-OF COURSE NOT!
No kidding?
YOU HAVE A THING FOR ME?
DON'T TELL ME

OOPS

blush

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT ME?
UM ASANO, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
THAT'S WAY OFF-TOPIC.
NEVER MIND! JUST TELL ME

YOU
CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
I AM
LOOKS LIKE.


equals
?
?
?

THAT'S HOW IT'S LIKE.
WHAT—?

Hmm
I GUESS.
AND WHY DO YOU LIKE IT?
?
OH, UM... BECAUSE IT'S TASTY... OR SOMETHING.

Gurgle
But ..
I
WILL DIE SOON
Gurgle
Gurgle

Gurgle
Gurgle
FU-
FUJISHIMA...?

SLAP
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, JUST SAY SO.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INSULT ME WITH THAT SORT OF JOKE!
DON'T FOOL AROUND WITH MY FEELINGS HERE!

SLAM
Even when it's the gospel truth
She didn't believe me.
YOU ARE GOING TO DIE
DON'T FOOL AROUND WITH MY FEELINGS HERE!

ASANO!
OH WELL IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF YOU HATE ME, ASANO,
BECAUSE I STILL LIKE YOU
But I'm going to die soon...
Ehehe

I will die.
Gurgle
Yet, one way or another..
"Pain."
"Sorrow."

...I'm not ready...
...to die.
Gurgle
My foot?!
Twitch
!?

!?
ASANO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

...FUJISHIMA?
IT
IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU COULD MAKE IT TO THE SURFACE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DIE!
Shiver
Shiver
HEY, AREN'T YOU AQUA-PHOBIC...?
I WAS SO SCARED
I WAS SO SCARED THINKING THAT YOU COULD DIE IN THERE

I'M SO RELIEVED... ASANO...
THANK YOU...

...the deepest corner in my heart spoke of the truth to me.

For the first time ever

I cried shamelessly, helplessly.

SHE SAID "YOU ARE GOING TO DIE"?
HER EXACT WORDS.
SO
DID SHE MENTION WHEN?
SOMEDAY SOON
HOW SOON?
UMM?
UHH—?
Now that you mentioned it...
THEN IT'S THE SAME THING FOR ME.
HUH? MEANING?

BEST WISHES.
Oh, I see now
LIKE I SAID IT'S THE SAME
WHAT IS?
YOU AND ME WE DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL DIE WE'RE NO DIFFERENT
Each and every one of us ..
It's the same thing.
Yeah, I get it.
CLUNK
CLUNK
YEAH
...lives on that same knowledge.

WOOSH
EEK

So, I guess I'm really dead now.
But I wanted to live a bit longer.
To laugh
by her side.
THANK
ASANO

ASANO!
Oh?
NO!
Hmm?
Er?
No injuries
ASANO!
Just pain

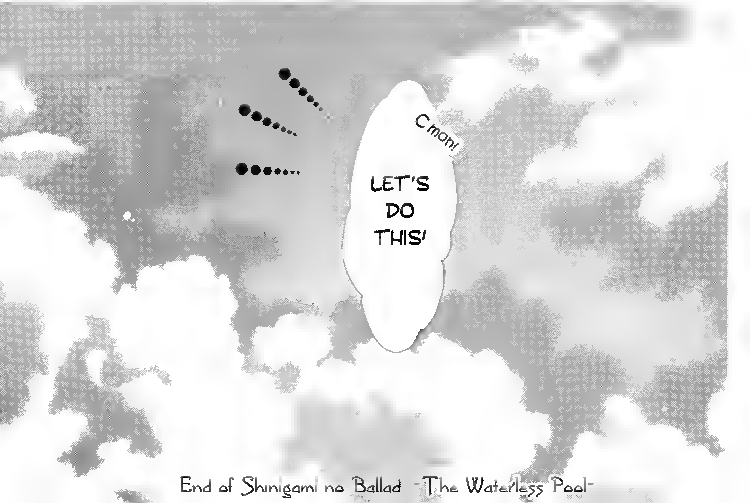
—THIS MEANS,
I'M NOT DEAD YET, HUH.

STUPID GUY, WE RELIED WAY TOO MUCH ON HIS BIG SISTER
AND YOU JUST HAD TO POKE YOUR NOSE INTO IT
Ad Mono
POKE MY NOSE INTO IT? I WAS ONLY...

Maboroshi
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

SINCE YOU'VE SEEN IT, I'LL BE JUST FINE.
HUH? YOU'RE GOING INTO THE POOL?!
IT'S OK NOW THAT I'VE SHOWN IT...
TO YOU.
SURE IF YOU SAY SO
BUT IF YOU WANT TO PUT IT OUT OF ORDER, I'VE GOT A BETTER METHOD
EH~?
YOU MEAN—
THIS.
ISN'T THIS THE WATER VALVE?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS EMPTY THE POOL

NOTHING, ASANO, YOU'VE CHANGED
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M FALLING FOR YOU AGAIN



End of Shinigami no Ballad -The Waterless Pool-

Maboroshi
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU ONG

Volume 1 Chapter 3
Credits:

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Proofer: shanz
Editor: kokoro-chin
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Maberoshi

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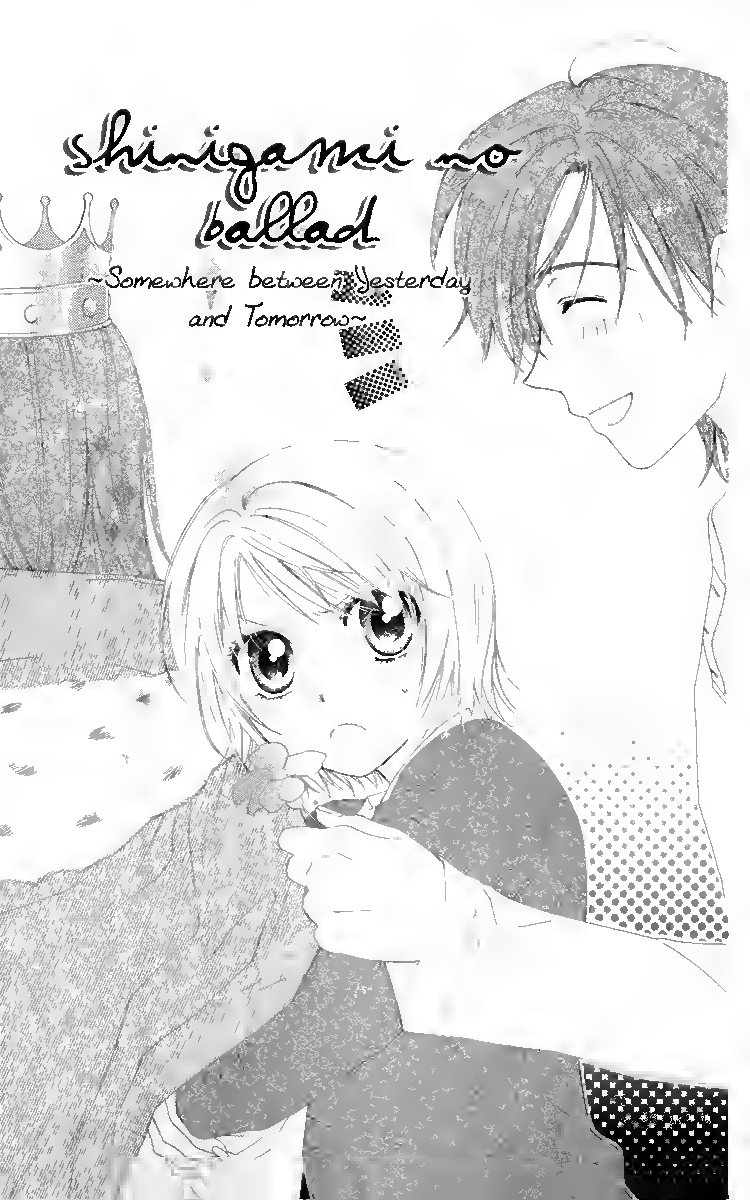
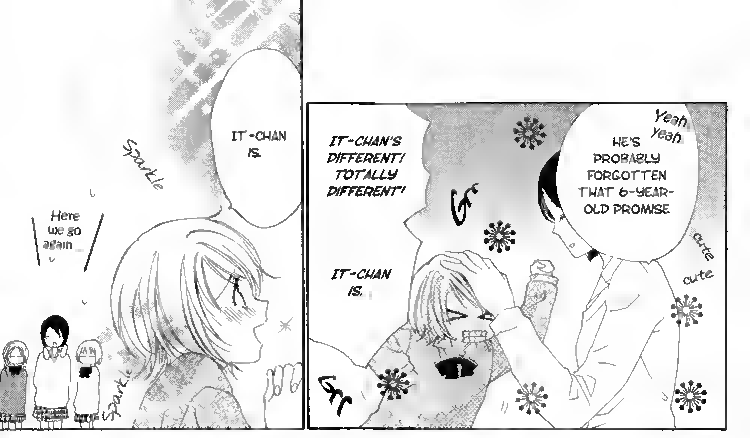

shinigami no ballad
~Somewhere between Yesterday and Tomorrow~

TAP
YOU ARE.
I SEE
YOU HAVE COME FOR ME.
A SHINIGAMI

...I WONDER
IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO MY FINAL WORDS.
THE STORY
OF MY FIRST LOVE—

We made a promise.
A pinky swear.
WHAT!!
Pshaw
YOU'RE ONLY A PRINCESS IN YOUR DREAM WORLD YAE.
NOT THAT STORY AGAIN?
Midget
(144cm)
Hey!
IT'S NO DREAM!
WE MADE A VOW THEN AND THERE!


Here we go again...
Sparkle
Sparkle
IT-CHAN IS...
IT-CHAN'S DIFFERENT! TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
IT-CHAN IS...
Yeah yeah
HE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN THAT 6-YEAR-OLD PROMISE
cute
cute

His hair was a beautiful shade of orange, though it was never dyed
He was... smaller than tiny me, and so adorable...
Takatsuki Ichigo, or "it-chan",
and I, Koumoto Yae, were childhood friends...
He was a year younger than me...?
...yet he was also my first love

Rustle
And so someday
"I M DEFINITELY COMING BACK "
He then moved abroad because of his father's job, but
sparkle
IT-CHAN . !!
I VE COME FOR YOU, YAE-PPE.
sparkle
WHEN WILL "SOMEDAY" COME TO BE?
YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
VERY UNLIKELY.
Dream
OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT
I'm so happy
I couldn't be apart from you any longer.

Most probably
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YAE!
YOU TURNED DOWN UEDA OF CLASS 2, DIDN'T YOU?
It's true, although it-chan sent me letters in the beginning,
His letters stopped coming in before I knew it
EH? ISN'T HE A REGULAR IN THE SOCCER TEAM?
WHAT A WASTE!
Why?
Shut up!
WHATEVER! I'M NOT INTERESTED!
Sigh
YOU'RE SUCH A SPOILED BRAT.
Well, you do look like a middle-schooler.
I AM NOT A BRAT!!
BOTHER!
THEY MAKE FUN OF ME JUST BECAUSE I'M SHORT!
But...
HEY!
COME BACK ALREADY!!

HECK
OR I MIGHT REALLY START DATING OTHER GUYS.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU
—IS coming back—
Look, your—
WUH?
MOM?
Yae?
HELLO?
COMING BACK? WHAT'S GOING ON...?
Pat
!
SHOCK
Leer

HOW DOES "THIS MUCH" SOUND?
IT'S A BIG SUM FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLGIRL LIKE YOU, ISN'T IT?
Pant
pant
HUH?
Sheer
YOU FREE?
And to call me an elementary schoolgirl...!
I have my uniform on!
10th grade
Snap
A sugar daddy, eh?
Yank
LET GO OF ME!
LET—
HEY, HOLD ON A SECOND!
Turn
Eek
BUMP

Y-YOU THERE!
I WAS TALKING TO THAT GIRL!
YOU OK?
OW...
wait..?
OH
OK SORRY.
DON'T TELL ME YOU AGREE WITH HIM! HELP!
?
HELP. WHO NEEDS HELP?
I NEED HELP!
ME!
OH. I SEE.
YEAH!
I REALLY SHOULD HELP YOU YAE-PPE

Sling-!
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
OL' MAN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
EH? HOW DID HE KNOW MY NAME ?
AH!
Wha
Ch
...OW.
Spurt

Yikes!
AHAHA
Stagger
THAT HURT'S.
Throb
Throb
WAIT A MINUTE!!
WAI-

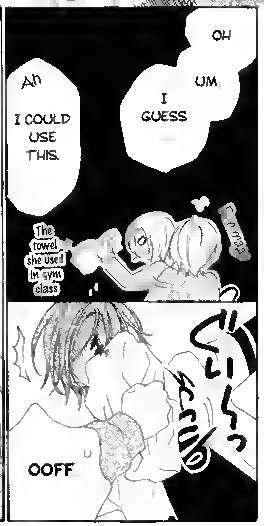
I ONLY WISHED TO STAY BY HIS SIDE.
BUT WHENEVER I RECALL THE COLOR OF SUNSET THAT DAY,
I ONLY END UP FEELING SAD

With this.
Throb
Throb

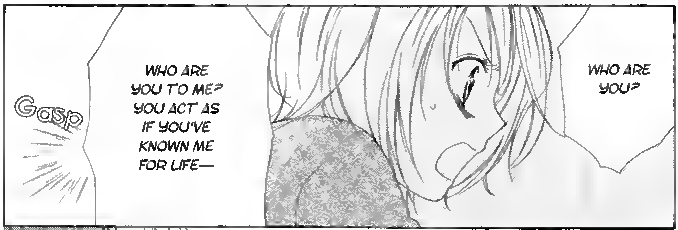
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...?

Gasp!
...HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME...?!!
HAVE YOU BEEN STALKING ME?!
HUH?

YAE-PPE, IT HURT'S.
YOU'LL BE FINE
IT'S NOT THAT—
Sigh


OH
UM
I GUESS
Ah
I COULD USE THIS.
The towel she used in gym class
OOFF

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, YAE-PPE!
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME "YAE-PPE" ANYWAY? WE BARELY JUST MET!
BESIDES, NOBODY CALLS ME THAT!
BUT THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER NAME TO CALL YOU WITH
SAY WHA~T?!


WHO ARE YOU?
Gasp
WHO ARE YOU TO ME? YOU ACT AS IF YOU'VE KNOWN ME FOR LIFE—

But of course,
there was
somebody like that.
YAE-PPE
IT-CHAN?

YUP!
YAE-PPE!
YAE-PPE!
Blow
Oh... but
It's Chan was supposed to be like this...

No freaking way!!!
I M BACK
YAE-PPE!
N-N-
Ewwww!!!
SULK

...so not happy!!
I'm—
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY?
YAEKO, WHY ARE YOU SULKING
NOW THAT ICHIGO-KUN IS BACK?
Only been in Japan for 1 hour
Wave
YAE-PPE!
He's nothing like that! He's a good-for-nothing,
uberklutz kind of a guy!!
Yae-ppe!
Shiiine
Because... because... my Ichan is supposed to be feminine and sagacious (whatever that means)
COME ON. SO MANY THINGS LIKE THE RAILWAY STATION HAVE CHANGED AND YOU CAN GO VISIT THE TEMPLE OR SOMETHING!
HUH? WHY DO I HAVE—
SHOW ICHIGO-KUN AROUND THE BLOCK
UH—
JUST GO!
Aargh!!! Give me back my first love!!!
The only thing they have in common is their orange color hair...
GR—
OH, OF COURSE, YAEKO!
?

DON'T CALL ME USING THAT NAME! ONLY "IT-CHAN" CAN!
AND DEFINITELY NOT WITH YOUR GRUFF MANLY VOICE!
OH BUT I AM ICHIGO.
AND I AM A GUY.
Don't you dare answer me back!
KOSS
YME-PPE!
H-How did it come to this...?
YAEKO!
SO WHAT MADE YOU COME BACK ALL OF A SUD—
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS.
Is that your boyfriend? Whatever happened to your beloved "it-chan"?
Crash
Fall
Fall
TODAY'S UNUSUALLY HOT DON'T YOU THINK?
It is rather hot you know?
OH. HI KOUMOTO-SAN WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

SO LONG, GIRLS!!!
WHOOPS!
OH, THAT'LL BE—
I wasn't careful enough...
GROWL
NEVER MIND THEM!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS, YAE-PPE?
STAR-VED
WHA ?
GROOOW
YAE-PPE, I'M STAR-VED
GRRUMMBBLE
GRROWWL
RAWR

Chomp
Chomp
Chomp
Think
Looks like he... can stomach just about anything...
What an appetite...
Chomp Chomp
Munch Munch
Gulp
HERE'S YOUR HALF!
YAE-PPE.
this
A minute
If he were it chan...
I can't finish
he would be doing that!!
Grr
Jiy
grr

Hah I bought it in the first place
HOW NOSTALGIC
WE WERE ALWAYS SHARING FOOD LIKE THIS BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
I'M SO GLAD WE CAN DO THIS AGAIN
TASTE EVEN BETTER!
SHARING FOOD MAKES IT

I can't be getting excited now, can I...?
Ehehe, thanks
...What's this?
Yaw~n.
...Y-
Looks like I lacked sleep...
Great dark circles
YAE-PPE!!
PAN
!

Hurry~
AWW COME ON!
W-WHAT THE RIGHT NOW?!
Gasp
HEY!
Messy hair
No make-up
Jersey
Basic attire
Y-YOU
HEY HEY,
LET'S GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK!
Woooo
WHOA, AWESOME!!
LOOK. THEY EVEN HAVE A CASTLE AND A POND!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COME HERE.
Surly

6
Glasses and white apparel
. Unbelievable
Yes! Like that!
This guy is so not It-chan!!
It-chan would've
There's a limit to this, even if he knows no tact!
time to do their make-up
Girls should be given
OOH!
MR TEDDY AND MR BEE!!
C'MON SME-PPE!
LET'S TAKE SOME PICTURES!!
YAM

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE FUN FINE! BUT CAN YOU PLEASE NOT DRAG ME AROUND...?
Wheeze
Wheeze
Ooh
I'VE TAKEN SO MANY! ♡
BUNNWY!
TEDDWY!
Are you even listening...?
Drag
Drag
That's next!

どよーーん
Gloom

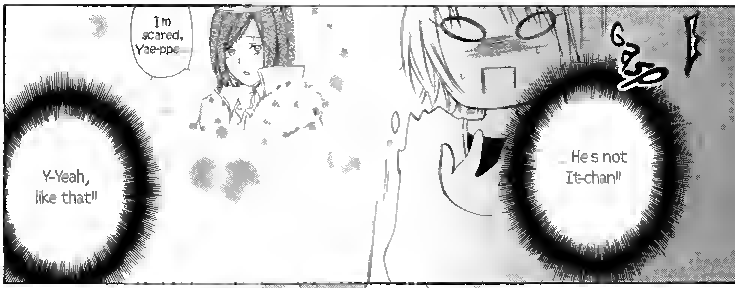
Let's go find the exit! Thrilling, huh?
THIS IS THE HORROR HOUSE!
GULP
Weak-hearted
W-WAIT A SECOND...
IS THIS...?

...!!
(spoo chiese)
BOING
BAH!!
YME-
I'm
I'M NOT SCARED! THEY'RE ALL JUST FAKES!!
Ahahahaha!
Gakker
GASP
-my
oh-
YME-PPE.

W-WHY ARE YOU HOLDING MY HAND?
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT AFRAID !
BUT,
I AM
CAN WE HOLD HANDS?

YA~Y! WE'RE OUT!
SLUMP
Scared out of her wits.
F-
FINE, HAVE IT YOUR WAY...
I'LL GO GET US SOME DRINKS.
STAY HERE.
OH OK...
...His hands has grown bigger.

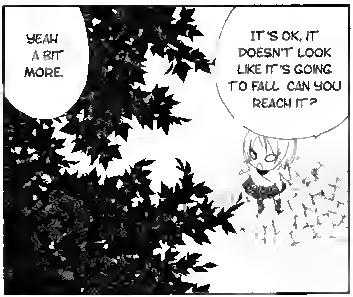
I was always the one pulling his hand


I'm scared, Yae-ppe
Y-Yeah, like that!!
He's not It-chan!!
Gasp!

WHERE DID YOU GO?
HEY!
JUST MY LUCK!
Oh, man!
Oh, man!
WHAT'S TAKEN HIM SO LONG?
THAT GUY.

7

A white cat and a black cat.



Leap
AH
Scuttle
SCRATCH
MEOOWWW!!
OWW!
Eek!
YOU'RE BLEEDING!!
Sway
AH HA-AHA...
I'M GLAD THE CAT'S ALL RIGHT...
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS.

YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD, YAE-PPE
I AM? NOT REALLY. JUST THE USUAL
OH, BUT YOU DON'T GET ANGRY WHEN I CALL YOU "YAE-PPE".
!
THOSE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
YOU GET IT?!
OH, LOOK, YOU'VE STOPPED BLEEDING!
"IT-CHAN."

Oh, well, It-chan is...
...It-chan, after all.
He might have changed, but...
he's still himself
Let's ride the Jet Coaster after this!
You don't have to drag me there!

I WAS ALWAYS ACTING STRONG AND
BEING SELFISH BUT HE KEPT HIS WATCH OVER ME.
WE WERE SO HAPPY
UNTIL THAT MOMENT

Whenever I start thinking that...
this It-chan might be the good old It-chan.
I become self-conscious
He is my first love...!
That ice cream looks good.
WHAT'S WRONG, YAE-PPE?
You're all red
OH, UM, N-NOTHING...!
OH, T-THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT MADE YOU COME BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN IT-CHAN?
OH, THAT?
TO LOOK FOR AN OLD FLAME.

N-
No way...
AN OLD FLAME. ?
EH ?
that means .
YOU
"I M DEFINITELY COMING BACK"
Geez...
YOU DIDN'T COME BACK TO SEE ME.

I was lonely despite the promise we made,
and waited in vain for a reply that never came.
All I wanted was to forget those people laughing at me.
YAE-PPE?
I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN LOVE.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WAITING.
IT WAS ONLY ME, THEN

AN IDIOT LIKE YOU,
YAE-PPE
IT-CHAN,
YOU'RE THE TYPE I HATE!!
Why ?
YAE-PPE!
DASH
Just as I've finally found out that.
I'm still in love with him like I was before.

Nnnn!
Huuu
A LAKE.
In the old days, I'd sit by the pond in my backyard whenever I felt like crying.
And It chan would always come for me.
but now It chan wouldn't come for me anymore.
I'm such a dope.
Being here by myself sure feels different.
YA-

Push
YAE-
-PPE...!
Splash
!!
Oh!
HEY...
IT-
IT-CHAN!

LISTEN!
THE ONE I'M LOOKING FOR.
IS GRANDMA'S OLD FLAME!
HUH...?

THAT MAN IS NO LONGER ALIVE.
OH... THEN
They were so very in love,
but the war tore them apart.

FOR SIX WHOLE YEARS,
I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE FIRST AND ONLY
—THE ONE I LOVE
IS YOU, YAE-PPE.

...LOOKS LIKE YOUR GRANDSON
...YES.
HAS FOUND HIS.
...GIRL WHO'S SAID I HAD BEAUTIFUL HAIR...
...I WONDER
IF I'LL MEET MINE TOO.

Together, always.

End of Shinigami no Ballad Somewhere between Yesterday and Tomorrow

AFTERWORD

I shall do my best to convey more of the world of "Shinigami" to you readers.

Once again, thank you very much!

Izumi Asuka

Send in your thoughts to this address.

Izumi Asuka,
Lala Henshuu-bu,
Hakusensha,
2-2-2, Kanda Awaji-chou,
Chiyoda-ku,
Toukyou 101-0063

bye

I'd like to thank you for reading up to this very page.

For someone new to adapting novels to manga such as myself, the release of this first volume was made possible by the assistance of many.

← The girl on the left is "Ani", a mysterious Shinigami introduced later in the novels. To anyone interested, I suggest you read the novels.

Doodles: Afterword of Graffiti in "a comic"

Hello
How do you do? My name is Hasegawa Keisuke

At first, the editor-in-charge of the Shinigami no Ballad novels was telling me, "We won't be making Shinigami into a manga." Yet on one fateful day, he said something along the lines of "We should probably turn Shinigami into a manga."
"Your actions don't reflect your words!" I yelled
I'm usually the fool who always gets knocked to come to his senses, but this time I didn't need it

However, what my editor had in mind was this. "I had meant to say that we weren't going to make it a shounen manga, but rather as a shoujo project."
Eh? A shoujo manga? And published by Hakusensha? LaLa?
I was flabbergasted. I even recall a little quivering on my part
Having read a number of manga published by Hakusensha myself, to have my original work serialized in a magazine called LaLa came off as a big shock to me
And so it began its run in LaLa DX, a division of LaLa
Congratulations. And thank you.
The ones who changed my editor's views that we wouldn't be making it into a manga was unmistakably the appointment of Izumi Asuka-san as the mangaka, as well as Hakusensha.
I'm blessed with a lot of such miracles, and because of that, you now have the manga in your hands?something that truly makes me happy.

Please enjoy yourself
I hope to live my life serving you?

Hi. I'm Nanakusa, the one in charge of the illustrations in the novels.
I feel happy, embarrassed, lightheaded and delighted every time I see the characters I designed redrawn in this manga.
I would like to use this space to show my gratitude
Izumi Asuka-san, thank you?And congratulations on the publication of the tankoubon!

Hasegawa Keisuke & Nanakusa (Dengeki Bunko / Mediaworks)

♪

Special thanks to
K-Ske Hasegawa
Nanakusa
Kazuma Miki(Media Works)
And You

（収録作品メモ）
●プロローグ。　描きおろし
●傷跡の花。　平成17年　ラブDX1月号掲載
●水のないプール。　平成17年　ラブDX5月号掲載
●きのうとあしたの其処わへん。　平成17年　ラブDX11月号掲載
●あとがき　描きおろし
●原作者あとがき　描きおろし

花とゆめCOMICS
しにがみのバラッド。①
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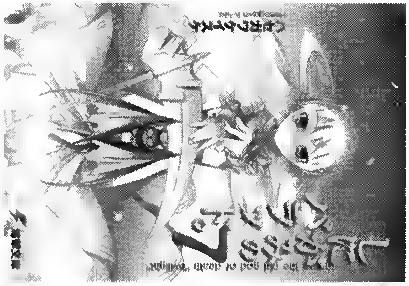
Coming up next volume...
WHY DID YOU MAKE THOSE PROMISES?
YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE AGAIN!
YOU'RE A SHINIGAMI!
YET YOU'RE FULFILLING DEAD PEOPLE'S WISHES
DANIEL, IF IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE BIT...
WHY NOT?
IT IS THEIR LAST WISH
AS YOU WISH PRINCESS.
These are the heartrending yet tender tales of a white Shinigami
The boys and girls close to the scent of death...
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE
...will encounter a mysterious being...
"Shinigami no Ballad" Volume 2 will be in stores in the summer of 2006!!

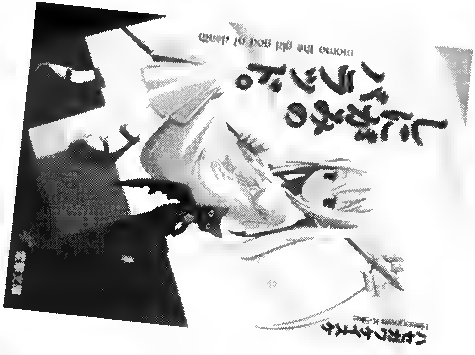
"When one stops having emotions, they will certainly end up alone. Feeling is connecting. Connected, forever." ~Somewhere between Yesterday and Tomorrow~



"He stretches his hand out. It won't reach. Always. No turning back. Sure enough..." ~The Waterless Pool~

These are the heartrending yet tender tales...

"He dreams of a pain that lingers. Dreaming of a wound that remains. Was he hiding his scar? Or was he trying to bury it? It's time for him to wake up." ~The Scar's Blossom~



...of a white Shinigami and her black cat.

The original Shinigami no Ballad novel series, #1 – #7 are now on sale!! The latest installment, #8 will be out on March 10th!

Author Hasegawa Keisuke, Illustrator Nanakusa
(Dengeki Bunko / Mediaworks)

www.mediaworks.co.jp

TV Animation

Shinigami no Ballad.

WOWOW Non-scramble (Free Broadcast)
On air beginning March 2nd, 2006 at 12.30 a.m.
Official website:
http://www.momo100100.com/

Cast:

Kana-ai Kobayashi
Akiko-san (Previous works: Tamagawa Risa in Zettai Shounen, Kumi in Full Moon o Sagashite)

Maxi Singles of the theme songs will be out on March 15th!

Opening theme "No one" Ending theme "White Messenger" and instrumental compilation. The vocals will be provided by the successful and talented indies singer, K'ya!

Selling price including tax 1260 [PCCG-70011]

Produced by Pony Canyon

Director: Mochizuki Tomomi (Previous works: Futatsu no Spica, Zettai Shounen)
Series composition: Yoshida Reiko (Previous works: Kaleido Star, Maria-sama ga Miteru etc.)
Character designer and animation director: Horiuchi Hiroyuki (Previous works: Tenchi Muyo etc.)
Music: MOKA
Animation production: Group Tac
Production company: Pony Canyon

Izumi Asuka's popular manga on sale now!

Tokage Ouji

Izumi Asuka 1

Tokage Ouji #1
Prince Sienna is cursed to bear the appearance of a lizard. Although the curse has been partially broken by the power of the pure love...

Tokage Ouji

Izumi Asuka 2

Tokage Ouji #2
...existing between the prince and Princess Canary of the neighboring kingdom, there are many more obstacles waiting to be overcome by the two of them!!

The wedding ceremony
The proposal
The conclusion reached with Princess Canary's brother!
The chase around the palace
The appearance of an impostor
The possession by a spirit